

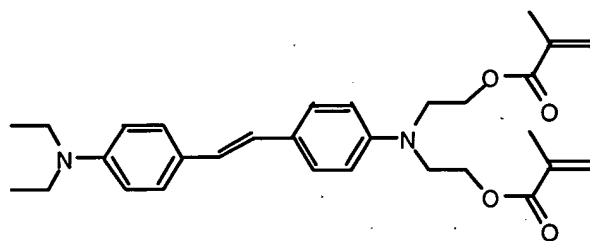
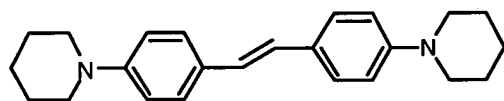
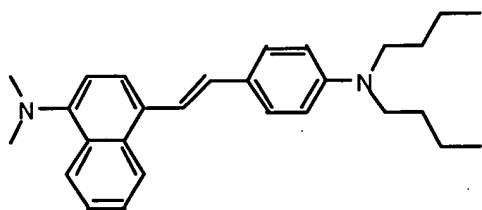
**Listing of Claims:**

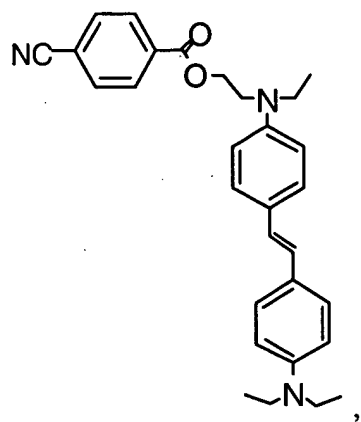
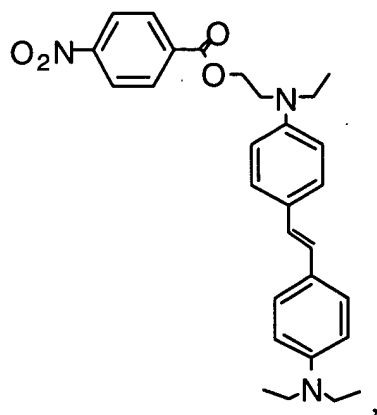
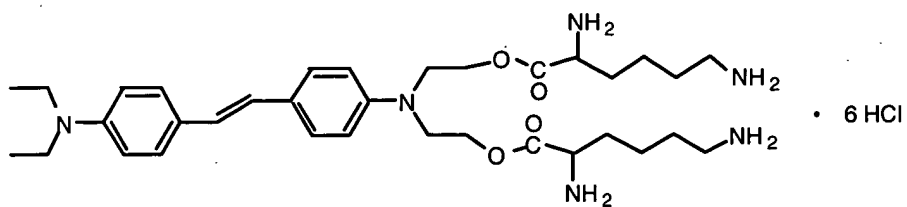
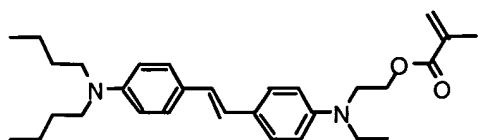
1-2. (Cancelled)

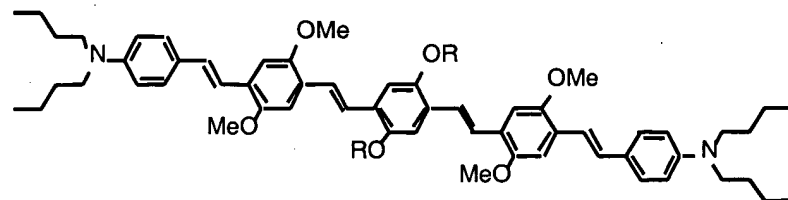
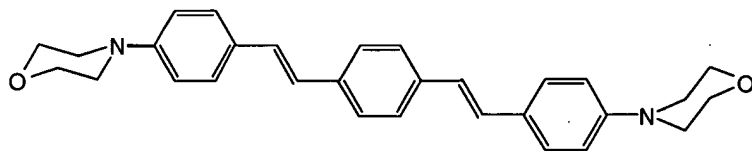
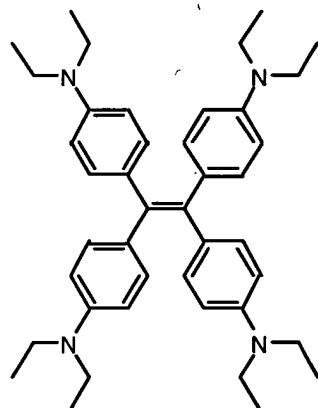
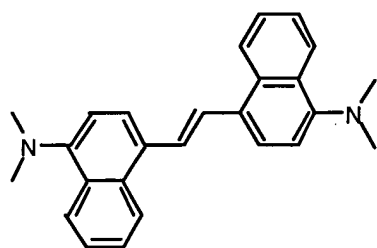
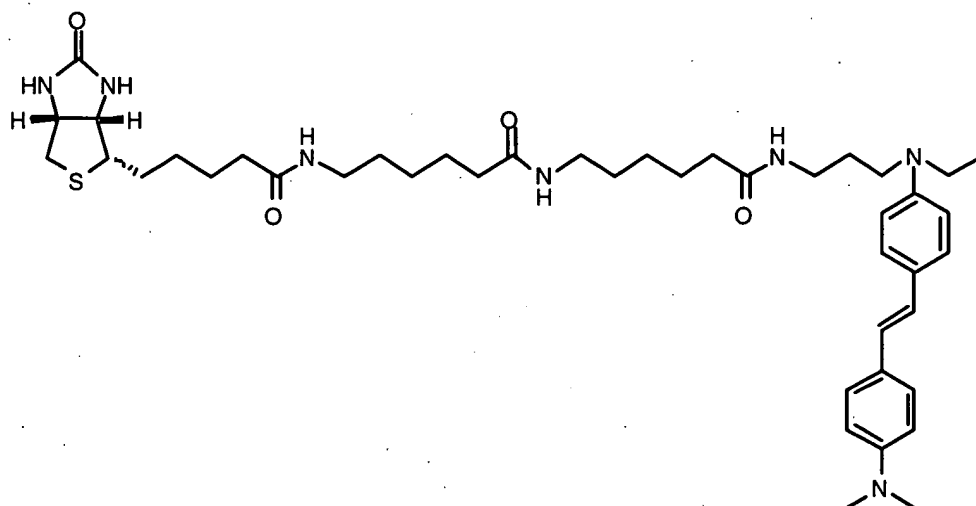
3. (Previously presented) A method for preparing a compound in an electronically excited state, comprising the steps of:

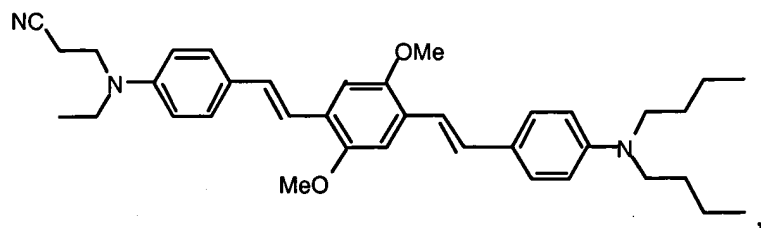
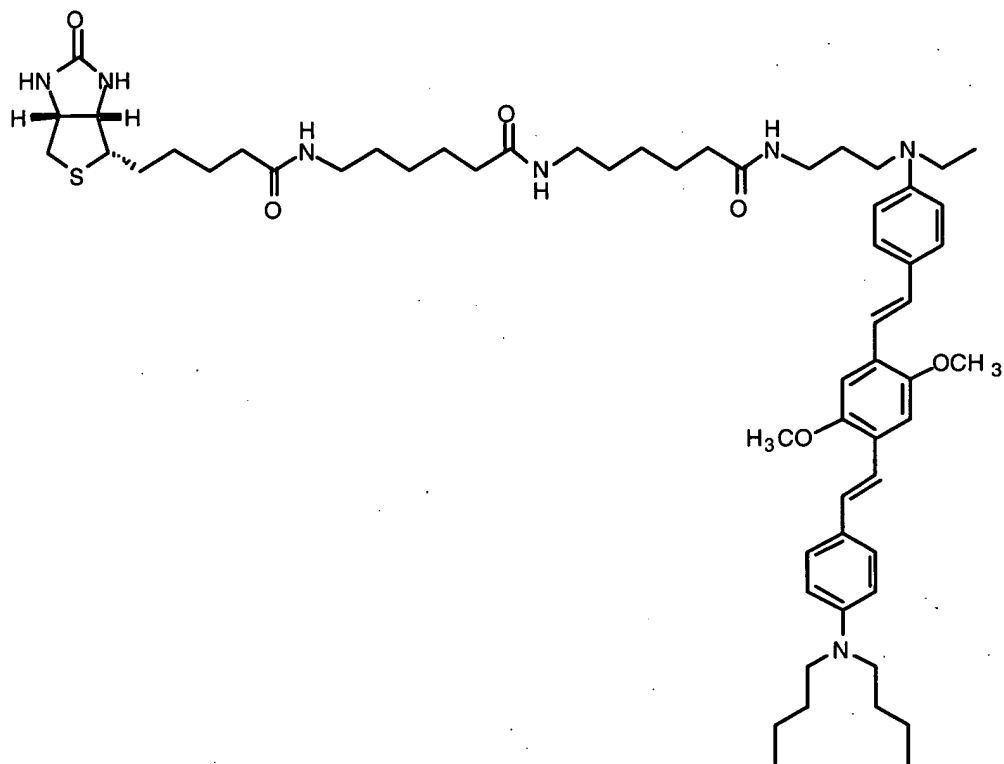
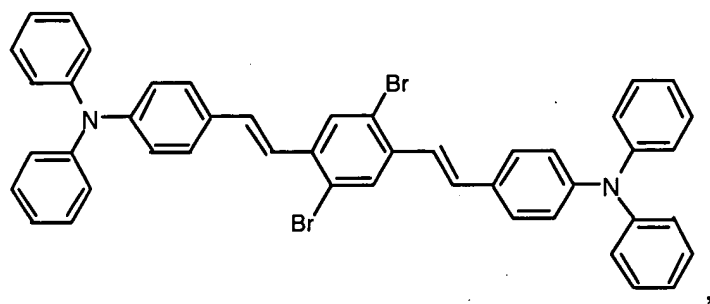
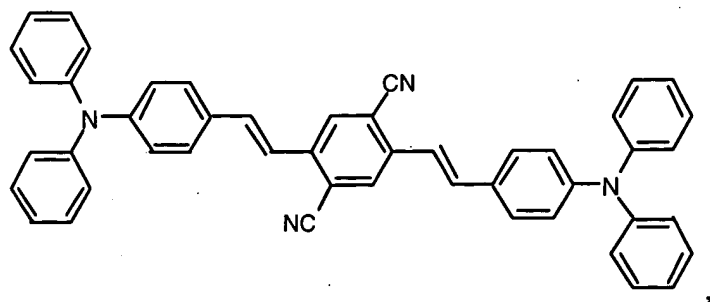
a) exposing a compound having the formula  $D_1-\Pi-D_2$  to radiation, wherein  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  are electron donor groups; and  $\Pi$  comprises a bridge of  $\pi$ -conjugated bonds connecting  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ ; and

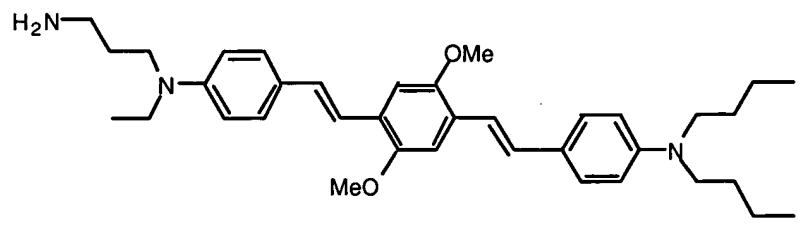
b) converting said compound to a multi-photon electronically excited state upon simultaneous absorption of at least two photons of said radiation by said compound, wherein the sum of the energies of all of said absorbed photons is greater than or equal to the transition energy from a ground state of said compound to said multi-photon excited state and wherein the energy of each absorbed photon is less than the transition energy between said ground state and the lowest single-photon excited state of said compound and is less than the transition energy between said multi-photon excited state and said ground state, wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of









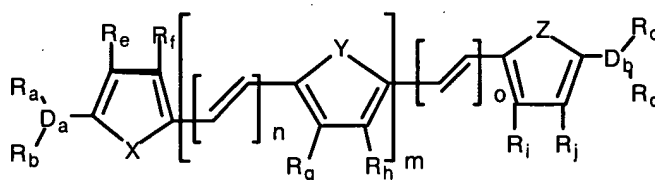


and mixtures thereof, where  $R=(CH_2)_{11}CH_3$ .

4. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a compound in an electronically excited state, comprising the steps of:

a) exposing a compound having the formula  $D_1-\Pi-D_2$  to radiation, wherein  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  are electron donor groups; and  $\Pi$  comprises a bridge of  $\pi$ -conjugated bonds connecting  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ ; and

b) converting said compound to a multi-photon electronically excited state upon simultaneous absorption of at least two photons of said radiation by said compound, wherein the sum of the energies of all of said absorbed photons is greater than or equal to the transition energy from a ground state of said compound to said multi-photon excited state and wherein the energy of each absorbed photon is less than the transition energy between said ground state and the lowest single-photon excited state of said compound and is less than the transition energy between said multi-photon excited state and said ground state, wherein said compound is further defined by a formula



where  $D_a$  is selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P;

where  $D_b$  is selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P;

$m, n, o$  are integers such that  $0 \leq m \leq 10$ ,  $0 \leq n \leq 10$ ,  $0 \leq o \leq 10$ ; and

where:

$X, Y, Z$  are independently selected from the group consisting of:  $CR_k=CR_l$ ; O; S; and  $N-R_m$ ;

$R_a, R_b, R_c, R_d$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{a1}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{a2}R_{a3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{a2}R_{a3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Br$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta I$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta$ -Phenyl; where  $0 < \alpha < 10$  and  $1 < \beta < 25$ , a group of aromatic rings having up to 20 carbons in the aromatic ring framework; fused aromatic rings, vinyl; allyl; 4-styryl; acroyl; methacroyl; acrylonitrile, isocyanate; isothiocyanate; epoxides; strained ring olefins;  $-(CH_2)_\delta SiCl_3$ ;  $-(CH_2)_\delta Si(OCH_2CH_3)_3$ ; and  $-(CH_2)_\delta Si(OCH_3)_3$ ; where  $\delta < 25$ ;

$R_{a1}, R_{a2}$ , and  $R_{a3}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons, a functional group derived from an amino acid; a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof, ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride;

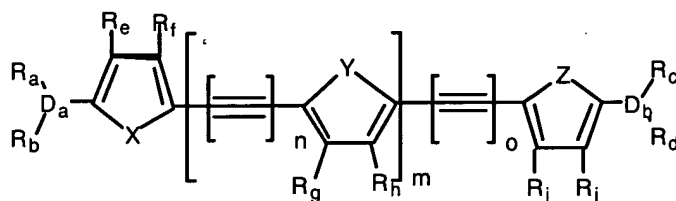
$R_e, R_f, R_g, R_h, R_i, R_j, R_k, R_l$  and  $R_m$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{b1}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{b2}R_{b3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{b2}R_{b3}$ , where  $R_{b1}, R_{b2}$ , and  $R_{b3}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of a **functional group derived from an amino acid; a polypeptide;** adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof, ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Br$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta I$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta$ -Phenyl, where  $0 < \alpha < 10$  and  $1 < \beta < 25$ ; a group of aromatic rings having up to 20 carbons in the aromatic framework; fused aromatic rings; CHO; CN; NO<sub>2</sub>; Br; Cl; I; phenyl; an acceptor group containing more than two carbon atoms; a functional group derived from an amino acid and  $NR_{e1}R_{e2}$ ;  $OR_{e3}$ ; where  $R_{e1}, R_{e2}, R_{e3}$  are defined as for  $R_n$  and  $R_o$ , where  $R_n$  and  $R_o$  are defined as any member of the group consisting of H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{g1}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{g2}R_{g3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{g2}R_{g3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Br$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta I$ ;

-(CH<sub>2</sub>CH<sub>2</sub>O)<sub>α</sub>-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>β</sub>-Phenyl; aryl groups; fused aromatic rings; ~~polymerizable; and~~  
~~polymerizable functionalities; functionalities; and~~

R<sub>g1</sub>, R<sub>g2</sub>, and R<sub>g3</sub> are independently ~~selected from~~ selected from the group consisting of:  
H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons; a functional group derived from an amino acid: a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a compound in an electronically excited state, comprising the steps of:

- a) exposing a compound having the formula D<sub>1</sub>-Π-D<sub>2</sub> to radiation, wherein D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub> are electron donor groups; and Π comprises a bridge of π-conjugated bonds connecting D<sub>1</sub> and D<sub>2</sub>; and
- b) converting said compound to a multi-photon electronically excited state upon simultaneous absorption of at least two photons of said radiation by said compound, wherein the sum of the energies of all of said absorbed photons is greater than or equal to the transition energy from a ground state of said compound to said multi-photon excited state and wherein the energy of each absorbed photon is less than the transition energy between said ground state and the lowest single-photon excited state of said compound and is less than the transition energy between said multi-photon excited state and said ground state, wherein said compound is further defined by a formula



where D<sub>a</sub> is selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P;

where D<sub>b</sub> is selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P;

m, n, o are integers such that 0 ≤ m ≤ 10, 0 ≤ n ≤ 10, 0 ≤ o ≤ 10; and

where:

X, Y, Z are independently selected from the group consisting of: CR<sub>k</sub>=CR<sub>l</sub>; O; S; and N-R<sub>m</sub>;

$R_a, R_b, R_c, R_d$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{a1}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{a2}R_{a3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{a2}R_{a3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Br$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta I$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta$ -Phenyl; where  $0 < \alpha < 10$  and  $1 < \beta < 25$ , a group of aromatic rings having up to 20 carbons in the aromatic ring framework; fused aromatic rings, vinyl; allyl; 4-styryl; acrolyl; methacroyl; acrylonitrile, isocyanate; isothiocyanate; epoxides; strained ring olefins;  $(-CH_2)_\delta SiCl_3$ ;  $(-CH_2)_\delta Si(OCH_2CH_3)_3$ ; and  $(-CH_2)_\delta Si(OCH_3)_3$ ; where  $\delta < 25$ ;

$R_{a1}, R_{a2}$ , and  $R_{a3}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons, a functional group derived from an amino acid; a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof, ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride;

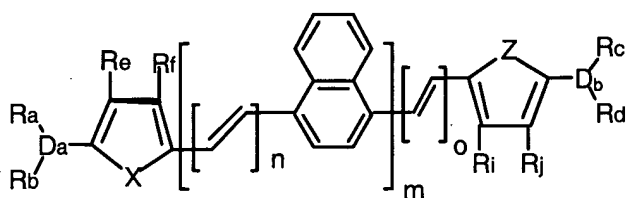
$R_e, R_f, R_g, R_h, R_i, R_j, R_k, R_l$  and  $R_m$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{b1}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{b2}R_{b3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{b2}R_{b3}$ , where  $R_{b1}, R_{b2}$ , and  $R_{b3}$  are independently selected from a functional group derived from an amino acid, a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Br$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta I$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta$ -Phenyl, where  $0 < \alpha < 10$  and  $1 < \beta < 25$ ; a group of aromatic rings having up to 20 carbons in the aromatic framework; fused aromatic rings; CHO; CN; NO<sub>2</sub>; Br; Cl; I; phenyl; an acceptor group containing more than two carbon atoms; a functional group derived from an amino acid and  $NR_{e1}R_{e2}$ ;  $OR_{e3}$ ; where  $R_{e1}, R_{e2}, R_{e3}$  are defined as for  $R_n$  and  $R_o$ , where  $R_n$  and  $R_o$  are defined as any member of the group consisting of H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{g1}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{g2}R_{g3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{g2}R_{g3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Br$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta I$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta$ -Phenyl; aryl groups; fused aromatic rings; and polymerizable functionalities; functionalities; and



$R_{g1}$ ,  $R_{g2}$ , and  $R_{g3}$  are independently selected from: selected from the group consisting of:  
H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons; a functional group derived from an amino acid: a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a compound in an electronically excited state, comprising the steps of:

- a) exposing a compound having the formula  $D_1-\Pi-D_2$  to radiation, wherein  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  are electron donor groups; and  $\Pi$  comprises a bridge of  $\pi$ -conjugated bonds connecting  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ ; and
- b) converting said compound to a multi-photon electronically excited state upon simultaneous absorption of at least two photons of said radiation by said compound, wherein the sum of the energies of all of said absorbed photons is greater than or equal to the transition energy from a ground state of said compound to said multi-photon excited state and wherein the energy of each absorbed photon is less than the transition energy between said ground state and the lowest single-photon excited state of said compound and is less than the transition energy between said multi-photon excited state and said ground state, wherein said compound is further defined by a formula



where  $D_a$  is selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P;

where  $D_b$  is selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P;

$m$ ,  $n$ ,  $o$  are integers such that  $0 \leq m \leq 10$ ,  $0 \leq n \leq 10$ ,  $0 \leq o \leq 10$ ; and

where:

$X$ ,  $Y$ ,  $Z$  are independently selected from the group consisting of:  $CR_k=CR_l$ ; O; S; and N- $R_m$ ;

$R_a$ ,  $R_b$ ,  $R_c$ ,  $R_d$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{a1}$ ;

$-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{NR}_{a2}\text{R}_{a3}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{CONR}_{a2}\text{R}_{a3}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{CN}$ ;  
 $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{Cl}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{Br}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{I}$ ;  
 $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{-Phenyl}$ ; where  $0 < \alpha < 10$  and  $1 < \beta < 25$ , a group of aromatic rings having up to 20 carbons in the aromatic ring framework; fused aromatic rings, vinyl; allyl; 4-styryl; acroyl; methacroyl; acrylonitrile, isocyanate; isothiocyanate; epoxides; strained ring olefins;  $(-\text{CH}_2)_\delta\text{SiCl}_3$ ;  $(-\text{CH}_2)_\delta\text{Si}(\text{OCH}_2\text{CH}_3)_3$ ; and  $(-\text{CH}_2)_\delta\text{Si}(\text{OCH}_3)_3$ ; where  $\delta < 25$ ;

$\text{R}_{a1}$ ,  $\text{R}_{a2}$ , and  $\text{R}_{a3}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons, a functional group derived from an amino acid; a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof, ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride;

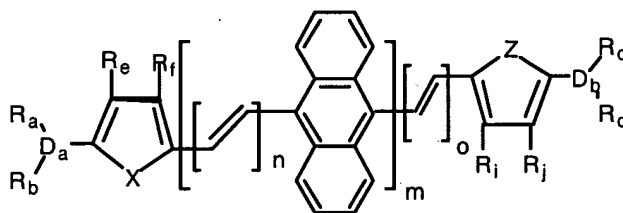
$\text{R}_e$ ,  $\text{R}_f$ ,  $\text{R}_i$ ,  $\text{R}_j$ ,  $\text{R}_k$ ,  $\text{R}_l$  and  $\text{R}_m$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{OR}_{b1}$ ;  
 $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{NR}_{b2}\text{R}_{b3}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{CONR}_{b2}\text{R}_{b3}$ , where  $\text{R}_{b1}$ ,  $\text{R}_{b2}$ , and  $\text{R}_{b3}$  are independently selected from a functional group derived from an amino acid; a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof, ~~or~~, methacryloyl chloride;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{CN}$ ;  
 $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{Cl}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{Br}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{I}$ ;  
 $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{-Phenyl}$ , where  $0 < \forall \alpha < 10$  and  $1 < \exists \beta < 25$ ; a group of aromatic rings having up to 20 carbons in the aromatic framework; fused aromatic rings; CHO; CN; NO<sub>2</sub>; Br; Cl; I; phenyl; an acceptor group containing more than two carbon atoms; a functional group derived from an amino acid and  $\text{NR}_{e1}\text{R}_{e2}$ ;  $\text{OR}_{e3}$ ; where  $\text{R}_{e1}$ ,  $\text{R}_{e2}$ ,  $\text{R}_{e3}$  are defined as for  $\text{R}_n$  and  $\text{R}_o$ , where  $\text{R}_n$  and  $\text{R}_o$  are defined as any member of the group consisting of H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{OR}_{g1}$ ;  
 $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{NR}_{g2}\text{R}_{g3}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{CONR}_{g2}\text{R}_{g3}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{CN}$ ;  
 $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{Cl}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{Br}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{I}$ ;  
 $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{-Phenyl}$ ; aryl groups; fused aromatic rings; ~~polymerizable; and~~  
polymerizable functionalities; functionalities; and

$\text{R}_{g1}$ ,  $\text{R}_{g2}$ , and  $\text{R}_{g3}$  are independently ~~selected from~~ selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons; a functional group derived from an

amino acid: a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a compound in an electronically excited state, comprising the steps of:

- a) exposing a compound having the formula  $D_1-\Pi-D_2$  to radiation, wherein  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  are electron donor groups; and  $\Pi$  comprises a bridge of  $\pi$ -conjugated bonds connecting  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ ; and
- b) converting said compound to a multi-photon electronically excited state upon simultaneous absorption of at least two photons of said radiation by said compound, wherein the sum of the energies of all of said absorbed photons is greater than or equal to the transition energy from a ground state of said compound to said multi-photon excited state and wherein the energy of each absorbed photon is less than the transition energy between said ground state and the lowest single-photon excited state of said compound and is less than the transition energy between said multi-photon excited state and said ground state, wherein said compound is further defined by a formula



where  $D_a$  is selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P;

where  $D_b$  is selected from the group consisting of N, O, S and P;

$m, n, o$  are integers such that  $0 \leq m \leq 10$ ,  $0 \leq n \leq 10$ ,  $0 \leq o \leq 10$ ; and

where:

$X, Y, Z$  are independently selected from the group consisting of:  $CR_k=CR_l$ ; O; S; and N- $R_m$ ;

$R_a, R_b, R_c, R_d$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{a1}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{a2}R_{a3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{a2}R_{a3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Br$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta I$ ;

$-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta$ -Phenyl; where  $0 < \alpha < 10$  and  $1 < \beta < 25$ , a group of aromatic rings having up to 20 carbons in the aromatic ring framework; fused aromatic rings, vinyl; allyl; 4-styryl; acroyl; methacroyl; acrylonitrile, isocyanate; isothiocyanate; epoxides; strained ring olefins;  $(-CH_2)_\delta SiCl_3$ ;  $(-CH_2)_\delta Si(OCH_2CH_3)_3$ ; and  $(-CH_2)_\delta Si(OCH_3)_3$ ; where  $\delta < 25$ ;

$R_{a1}$ ,  $R_{a2}$ , and  $R_{a3}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons, a functional group derived from an amino acid; a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof, ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride;

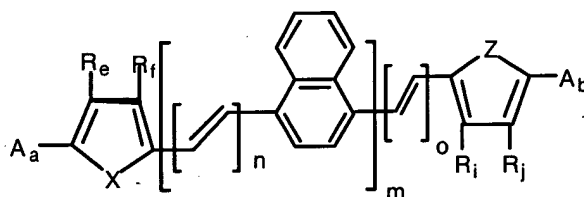
$R_e$ ,  $R_f$ ,  $R_i$ ,  $R_j$ ,  $R_k$ ,  $R_l$  and  $R_m$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{b1}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{b2}R_{b3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{b2}R_{b3}$ , where  $R_{b1}$ ,  $R_{b2}$ , and  $R_{b3}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of a functional group derived from an amino acid; a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof, ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Br$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta I$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta$ -Phenyl, where  $0 < \alpha < 10$  and  $1 < \beta < 25$ ; a group of aromatic rings having up to 20 carbons in the aromatic framework; fused aromatic rings; CHO; CN; NO<sub>2</sub>; Br; Cl; I; phenyl; an acceptor group containing more than two carbon atoms; a functional group derived from an amino acid and  $NR_{e1}R_{e2}$ ;  $OR_{e3}$ ; where  $R_{e1}$ ,  $R_{e2}$ ,  $R_{e3}$  are defined as for  $R_n$  and  $R_o$ , where  $R_n$  and  $R_o$  are defined as any member of the group consisting of H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{g1}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{g2}R_{g3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{g2}R_{g3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Br$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta I$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta$ -Phenyl; aryl groups; fused aromatic ring; ~~and polymerizable functionalities; functionalities; and~~  
~~\_\_\_\_\_~~  $R_{g1}$ ,  $R_{g2}$ , and  $R_{g3}$  are independently selected from: selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons; a functional group derived from an amino acid: a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof, ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride.

8-12. (Cancelled)

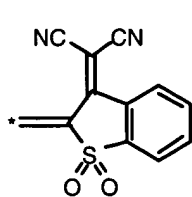
13. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a compound in an electronically excited state, comprising the steps of:

a) exposing a compound having the formula  $D_1-\Pi-D_2$  to radiation, wherein  $D_1$  and  $D_2$  are electron donor groups; and  $\Pi$  comprises a bridge of  $\pi$ -conjugated bonds connecting  $D_1$  and  $D_2$ ; and

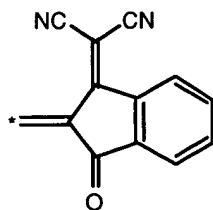
b) converting said compound to a multi-photon electronically excited state upon simultaneous absorption of at least two photons of said radiation by said compound, wherein the sum of the energies of all of said absorbed photons is greater than or equal to the transition energy from a ground state of said compound to said multi-photon excited state and wherein the energy of each absorbed photon is less than the transition energy between said ground state and the lowest single-photon excited state of said compound and is less than the transition energy between said multi-photon excited state and said ground state, wherein said compound is further defined by a formula



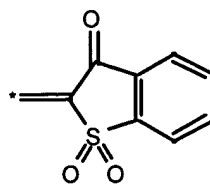
where  $A_a$  and  $A_b$  can be independently selected from: selected from the group consisting of: CHO; CN; NO<sub>2</sub>, and



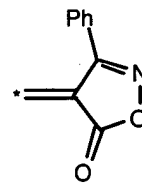
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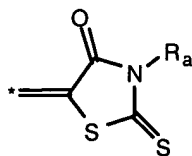
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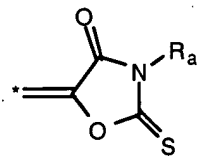
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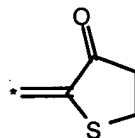
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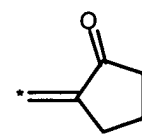
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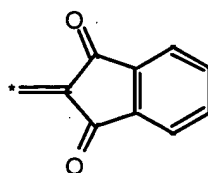
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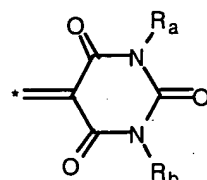
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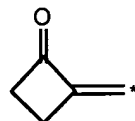
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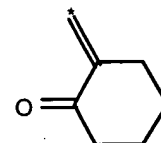
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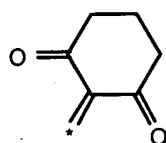
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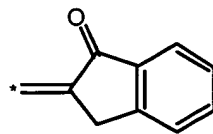
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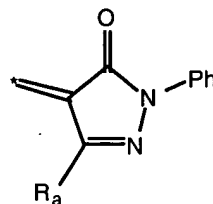
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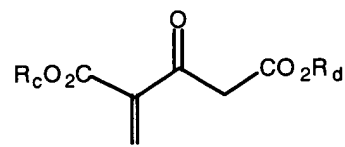
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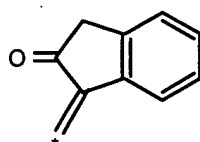
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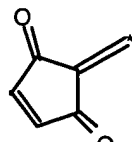
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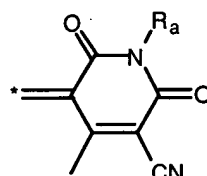
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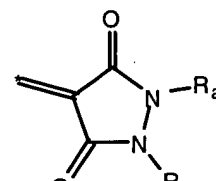
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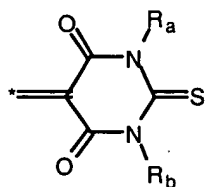
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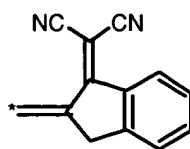
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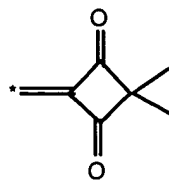
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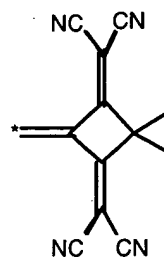
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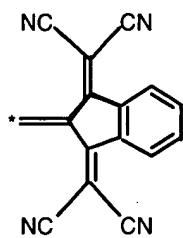
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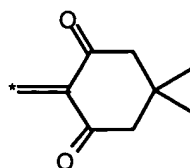
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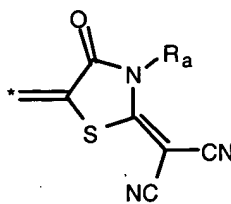
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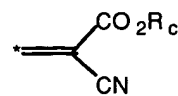
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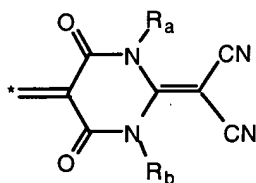
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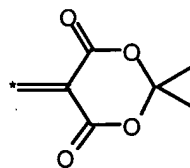
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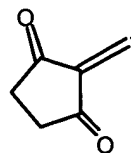
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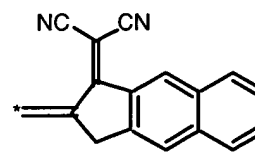
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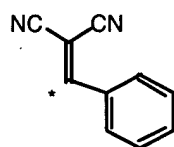
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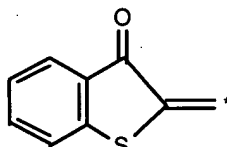
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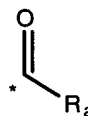
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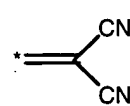
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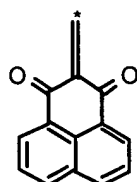
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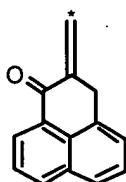
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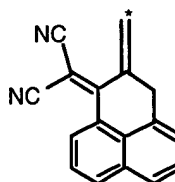
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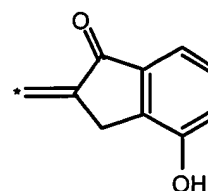
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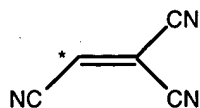
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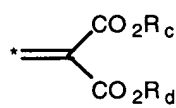
A39



A40



A41



A42

in addition  $A_a$  and  $A_b$  can be independently selected from the group consisting of: Br, Cl, and I; and where  $0 \leq m \leq 10$ ,  $0 \leq n \leq 10$ ,  $0 \leq o \leq 10$ ; and where:

X, Y, Z are independently selected from the group consisting of:  $CR_k=CR_j$ ; O; S; and  $N-R_m$ ;

$R_a$ ,  $R_b$ ,  $R_c$ ,  $R_d$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{a1}$ ;  
 $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{a2}R_{a3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{a2}R_{a3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  
 $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Br$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta I$ ;  
 $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta$ -Phenyl; where  $0 < \alpha < 10$  and  $1 < \beta < 25$ , a group of aromatic rings having up to 20 carbons in the aromatic ring framework; fused aromatic rings, vinyl; allyl; 4-styryl; acroyl; methacryl; acrylonitrile, isocyanate; isothiocyanate; epoxides; strained ring olefins;  $-(CH_2)_\delta SiCl_3$ ;  $-(CH_2)_\delta Si(OCH_2CH_3)_3$ ; and  $-(CH_2)_\delta Si(OCH_3)_3$ ; where  $\delta < 25$ ;

$R_{a1}$ ,  $R_{a2}$ , and  $R_{a3}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons, a functional group derived from an amino acid; a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof, ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride;

$R_e$ ,  $R_f$ ,  $R_i$ ,  $R_j$ ,  $R_k$ ,  $R_l$  and  $R_m$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{b1}$ ;  
 $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{b2}R_{b3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{b2}R_{b3}$ , where  $R_{b1}$ ,  $R_{b2}$ , and  $R_{b3}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of a functional group derived from an amino acid; a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof, ~~or~~ methacryloyl chloride;  
 $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Br$ ;  
 $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta I$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta$ -Phenyl, where  $0 < \forall \alpha < 10$  and  $1 < \exists \beta < 25$ ; a group of aromatic rings having up to 20 carbons in the aromatic framework; fused aromatic rings; CHO; CN; NO<sub>2</sub>; Br; Cl; I; phenyl; an acceptor group containing more than two carbon atoms; a functional group derived from an amino acid and  $NR_{e1}R_{e2}$ ;  $OR_{e3}$ ; where  $R_{e1}$ ,  $R_{e2}$ ,  $R_{e3}$  are defined as for  $R_n$  and  $R_o$ , where  $R_n$  and  $R_o$  are defined as any member of the group consisting of H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  
 $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{g1}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{g2}R_{g3}$ ;  
 $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{g2}R_{g3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;



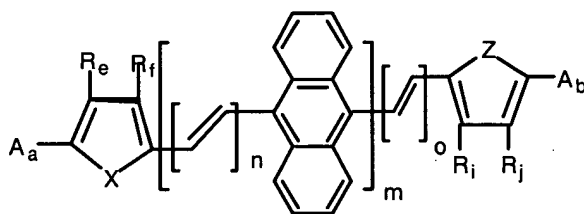
$-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{Br}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{I}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{-Phenyl}$ ; aryl groups; fused aromatic rings; and polymerizable functionalities; functionalities; and

$\text{R}_{g1}$ ,  $\text{R}_{g2}$ , and  $\text{R}_{g3}$  are independently ~~selected from:~~selected from the group consisting of:  
H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons; a functional group derived from an amino acid; or a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride.

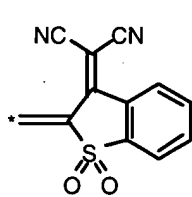
14. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a compound in an electronically excited state, comprising the steps of:

a) exposing a compound having the formula  $\text{D}_1\text{-}\Pi\text{-D}_2$  to radiation, wherein  $\text{D}_1$  and  $\text{D}_2$  are electron donor groups; and  $\Pi$  comprises a bridge of  $\pi$ -conjugated bonds connecting  $\text{D}_1$  and  $\text{D}_2$ ; and

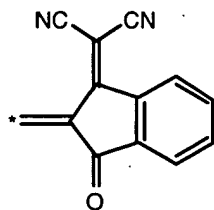
b) converting said compound to a multi-photon electronically excited state upon simultaneous absorption of at least two photons of said radiation by said compound, wherein the sum of the energies of all of said absorbed photons is greater than or equal to the transition energy from a ground state of said compound to said multi-photon excited state and wherein the energy of each absorbed photon is less than the transition energy between said ground state and the lowest single-photon excited state of said compound and is less than the transition energy between said multi-photon excited state and said ground state, wherein said compound is further defined by a formula



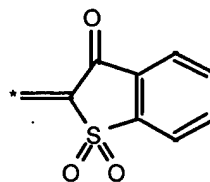
where  $\text{A}_a$  and  $\text{A}_b$  ~~can be~~are independently ~~selected from:~~selected from the group consisting of:  
CHO; CN;  $\text{NO}_2$ , and



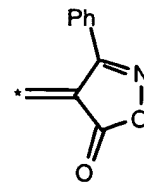
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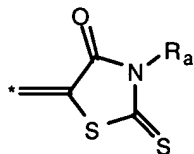
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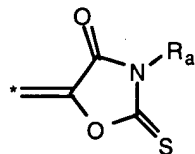
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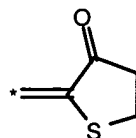
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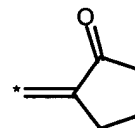
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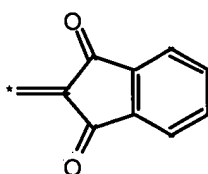
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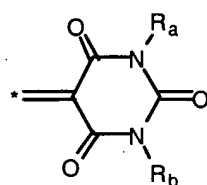
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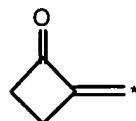
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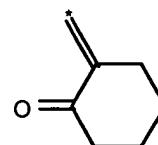
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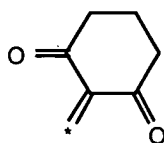
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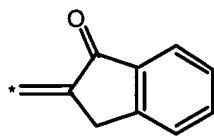
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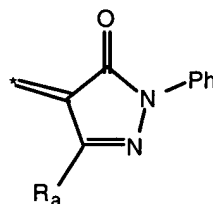
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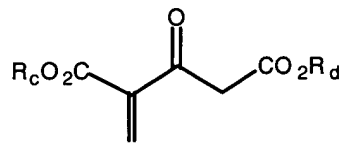
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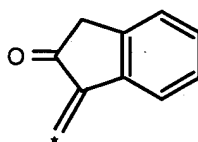
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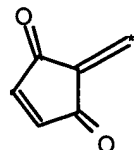
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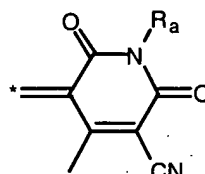
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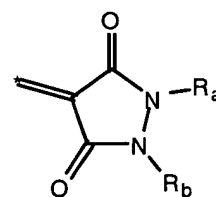
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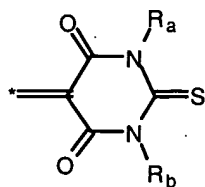
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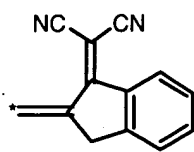
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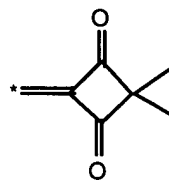
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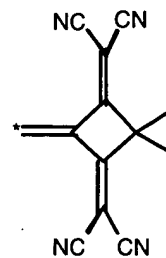
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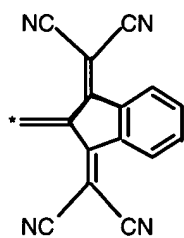
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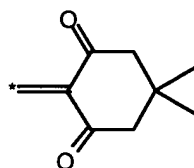
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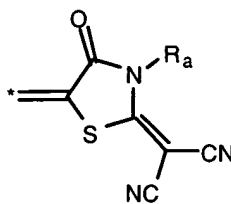
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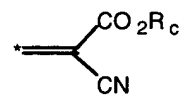
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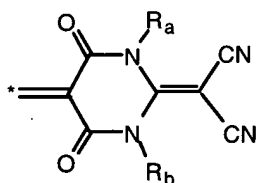
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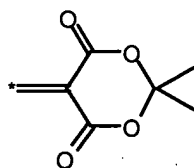
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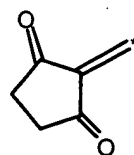
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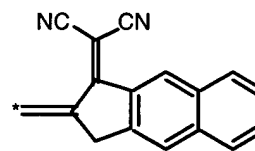
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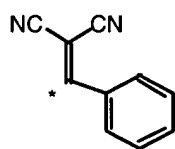
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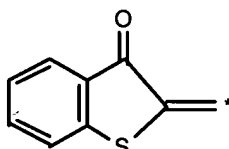
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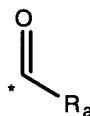
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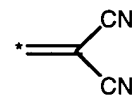
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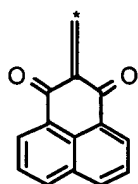
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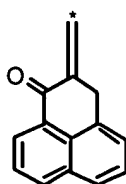
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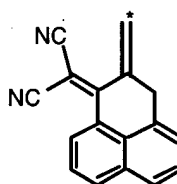
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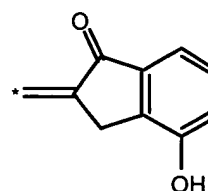
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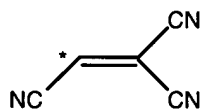
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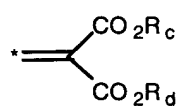
A39



A40



A41



A42

in addition  $A_a$  and  $A_b$  can be independently selected from the group consisting of: Br, Cl, and I; and where  $0 \leq m \leq 10$ ,  $0 \leq n \leq 10$ ,  $0 \leq o \leq 10$ ; and where:

X, Y, Z are independently selected from the group consisting of:  $CR_k=CR_l$ ; O; S; and N- $R_m$ ;

$R_a$ ,  $R_b$ ,  $R_c$ ,  $R_d$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{a1}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{a2}R_{a3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{a2}R_{a3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Br$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta I$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta$ -Phenyl; where  $0 < \alpha < 10$  and  $1 < \beta < 25$ , a group of aromatic rings having up to 20 carbons in the aromatic ring framework; fused aromatic rings, vinyl; allyl; 4-styryl; acroyl; methacryl; acrylonitrile, isocyanate; isothiocyanate; epoxides; strained ring olefins;  $-(CH_2)_\delta SiCl_3$ ;  $-(CH_2)_\delta Si(OCH_2CH_3)_3$ ; and  $-(CH_2)_\delta Si(OCH_3)_3$ ; where  $\delta < 25$ ;

$R_{a1}$ ,  $R_{a2}$ , and  $R_{a3}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons, a functional group derived from an amino acid; a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof, ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride;

$R_e$ ,  $R_f$ ,  $R_i$ ,  $R_j$ ,  $R_k$ ,  $R_l$  and  $R_m$  are independently selected from the group consisting of: H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{b1}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{b2}R_{b3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{b2}R_{b3}$ , where  $R_{b1}$ ,  $R_{b2}$ , and  $R_{b3}$  are independently selected from the group consisting of a functional group derived from an amino acid; a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof, ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Br$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta I$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta$ -Phenyl, where  $0 < \forall \alpha < 10$  and  $1 < \exists \beta < 25$ ; a group of aromatic rings having up to 20 carbons in the aromatic framework; fused aromatic rings; CHO; CN; NO<sub>2</sub>; Br; Cl; I; phenyl; an acceptor group containing more than two carbon atoms; a functional group derived from an amino acid and  $NR_{e1}R_{e2}$ ;  $OR_{e3}$ ; where  $R_{e1}$ ,  $R_{e2}$ ,  $R_{e3}$  are defined as for  $R_n$  and  $R_o$ , where  $R_n$  and  $R_o$  are defined as any member of the group consisting of H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta OR_{g1}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta NR_{g2}R_{g3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CONR_{g2}R_{g3}$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta CN$ ;  $-(CH_2CH_2O)_\alpha-(CH_2)_\beta Cl$ ;

$-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{Br}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{I}$ ;  $-(\text{CH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{O})_\alpha-(\text{CH}_2)_\beta\text{-Phenyl}$ ; aryl groups; fused aromatic rings; ~~polymerizable~~; and polymerizable functionalities; functionalities; and

$\text{R}_{\text{g}1}$ ,  $\text{R}_{\text{g}2}$ , and  $\text{R}_{\text{g}3}$  are independently ~~selected from~~; selected from the group consisting of:  
H; a linear or branched alkyl group with up to 25 carbons; a functional group derived from an amino acid; or a polypeptide; adenine; guanine; tyrosine; cytosine; uracil; biotin; ferrocene, ruthenocene, cyanuric chloride and derivatives thereof ~~or~~ and methacryloyl chloride.

15. (Cancelled)